

Message Text

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ACTION COA-02

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ARA-16 EUR-25 EA-11 ISO-00 L-03 IO-14

SCI-06 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 COME-00 CEQ-02

INT-08 DLOS-07 SMI-01 DODE-00 OIC-04 DRC-01 /122 W

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R 261842Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1616

INFO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY MEXICO

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PANAMA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

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PASS COMMERCE (NOAA), CEQ, INTERIOR, SMITHSONIAN

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIS, IBIO, SENV, OCON

SUBJECT: INTERNATIONAL WHALING COMMISSION MEETING:
PROCEEDINGS OF JUNE 25

REF: LONDON 7973

BEGIN SUMMARY JAPANESE AND SOVIETS FOUGHT HARD DOWN
THE LINE WITH VARIETY OF MANOEUVRES TO DEFEAT AUTO-
MATIC MORATORIUM SCHEME, WHICH COMMISSION ADOPTED
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BY 13 TO 2 VOTE. SCHEME, AS REPORTED, WAS IN CON-

FORMITY WITH US BACKUP POSITION AND WAS INTRODUCED IN TECHNICAL COMMITTEE AS AUSTRALIAN AMENDMENT TO US RESOLUTION FOR 10-YEAR MORATORIUM ON COMMERCIAL WHALING. FREQUENTLY, IT APPEARED THEY WOULD SUCCEED IN THEIR BLOCKING TACTICS AND FORCE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN (AUSTRALIAN COMMISSIONER BOLLEN) TO ACCEPT THEIR ARGUMENTATION. IWC CHAIRMAN RINDAL, SITTING AS NORWEGIAN COMMISSIONER, ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS PROVIDED ADVICE WHICH SAVED SITUATION.
END SUMMARY

1. JAPANESE LED OFF WITH ARGUMENT THAT AUSTRALIAN AMENDMENT WAS NOT REPEAT NOT AN AMENDMENT, BUT RATHER NEW AGENDA ITEM. THUS THERE MUST BE 60-DAY NOTICE BEFORE IT COULD BE CONSIDERED. SOVIETS ARGUED THAT LEGAL DECISION WAS NEEDED TO DECIDE WHETHER AMENDMENT WAS ADMISSIBLE.

2. AFTER BEING ADVISED BY RINDAL THAT COMMISSION COULD DECIDE ON ITS OWN RULES OF PROCEDURE AND THAT IT DID NOT HAVE TO CALL ON LEGAL OPINION IN THIS RESPECT. BOLLEN RULED THAT AUSTRALIAN AMENDMENT WAS ADMISSIBLE AS AMENDMENT. RULING WAS PUT TO VOTE AND CARRIED WITH ONLY SOVIETS AND JAPANESE VOTING AGAINST AND WITH NO ABSTENTIONS.

3. SOVIETS MAINTAINED THAT ALTHOUGH THEY FOUND AMENDMENT INTERESTING THEY COULD NOT ACT ON IT BECAUSE THEY HAD NOT HAD TIME TO DEVELOP POSITION ON IT. JAPAN THEN ARGUED THAT ALTHOUGH AMENDMENT WAS ACCEPTABLE PROCEDURALLY, IT WAS QUESTIONABLE WHETHER IT WAS FEASIBLE SCIENTIFICALLY. AT THIS JUNCTURE RINDAL EXPRESSED SURPRISE AT JAPANESE DILEMMA AND NOTED AMENDMENT WAS SIMILAR TO SUGGESTION SUBMITTED BY JAPAN AT 1972 STOCKHOLM CONFERENCE.

4. UPON REQUEST FROM JAPANESE, COMMITTEE RECESSED

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INFO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

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DURING WHICH TIME SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE MET AT BOLLEN'S REQUEST TO DECIDE WHETHER AMENDMENT WAS FEASIBLE SCIENTIFICALLY. WHEN TECHNICAL COMMITTEE SESSION RESUMED SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN ANNOUNCED THAT HIS COMMITTEE HAD AGREED IT WAS FEASIBLE. JAPANESE THEN INTRODUCED AMENDMENT TO AUSTRALIAN AMENDMENT WHICH IN EFFECT WOULD HAVE MAINTAINED STATUS QUO. JAPANESE AMENDMENT WAS DEFEATED 9-2 WITH ONLY JAPAN AND SOUTH AFRICA VOTING AFFIRMATIVELY AND DENMARK, ICELAND, NORWAY AND USSR ABSTAINING. AUSTRALIAN AMENDMENT THEN PASSED WITH USSR AND JAPAN VOTING AGAINST AND US, UK AND SOUTH AFRICA ABSTAINING.

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5. BY CONSENSUS IT WAS AGREED THAT VOTE ON AUSTRALIAN AMENDMENT CONSTITUTED BINDING RESOLUTION AND THAT NO ADDITIONAL VOTE WAS NEEDED TO MAKE IT SO.

6. IN AFTERNOON PLENARY RESUMED AND RECEIVED REPORT ON AUSTRALIAN AMENDMENT. SOUTH AFRICA NOTED THAT IT WOULD COMPLY WITH AMENDMENT, ON CONDITION THAT OTHER IWC MEMBERS ALSO WOULD DO SO. USSR OBJECTED TO PART OF PREAMBLE WHICH CITED FOOD NEEDS OF FUTURE AND

POINTED OUT THAT MOST OF THE WORLD'S POPULATION WAS
ALREADY SHORT OF FOOD. AS CONSEQUENCE WORDS
"...ENHANCE WHALE STOCKS AS A RESOURCE FOR FUTURE USE
WHEN FOOD NEEDS OF THE WORLD WILL BE GREATER BECAUSE
OF INCREASED HUMAN POPULATION" WAS AMENDED TO
"...ENHANCE WHALE STOCKS AS A RESOURCE FOR NOT ONLY
THE PRESENT BUT ALSO FOR THE FUTURE." AMENDMENT WAS
THEN VOTED ON AND CARRIED 13 TO 3 WITH JAPAN AND USSR
CASTING THE NEGATIVE VOTES.

7. US STATED THAT ALTHOUGH IT HAD SUPPORTED
AUSTRALIAN AMENDMENT, IT WOULD HAVE PREFERRED 10-YEAR
MORATORIUM. ARGENTINA, CANADA, FRANCE, MEXICO AND UK
EXPRESSED SIMILAR VIEW.

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Message Attributes

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TAGS: EFIS, TBIO, SENV, OCON, IWC
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